Military coup in Fiji Islands

181. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what is the reaction of Government with regard to the military coup in Fiji Islands resulting in ethnic conflicts in the Islands and the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interests of the Fijians of Indian origin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): The Government of India has expressed its concern at the overthrow of the elected government and the abrogation of the Constitution. It has stated that measures towards national reconciliation and a return to democracy should fully take into account the need to consult all sections of the population so as to ensure that there is no discrimination against any ethnic group in Fiji's multi-racial society which has lived in harmony for decades.

India has taken various steps to promote a resolution of the crisis. These have included visits by Ministers of State for External Affairs Shri K. Natwar Singh and Shri Eduardo Faleiro to the UK, Australia and New Zealand for discussions with the Governments concerned and with the Commonwealth Secretary General; visits by representatives of the deposed Bavadra Government to India; and messages from the Prime Minister to various world leaders as a part of the consultative process with a view to mobilising international opinion in favour of restoring democracy in accordance with the present Constitution and the consolidation of racial harmony and stability in Fiji.

Firing by police in Mahabir Enclave Near Palam

182. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a person was killed and several others were injured when police opened fire to disperse people resisting demolition of their houses in Mahabir Enclave near Palam recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the police firing and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) on the 27th June, 1987 the Delhi Development Authority had undertaken a demolition operation at Mahabir Enclave. A mob of 7000/8000 gathered and started pelting stones on the DDA and police personnel. 26 police and DDA personnel sustained injuries. One Motor cycle and wireless set belonging to the Delhi Police was set on fire. In these circumstances, the police fired 36 teargas shells, resorted to lathi charge and ultimately fired 7 rounds to protect the lives of the DDA and police personnel. One person died of bullet injuries and one other sustained injuries.

A case under various sections of law has been registered and 20 persons rounded up.